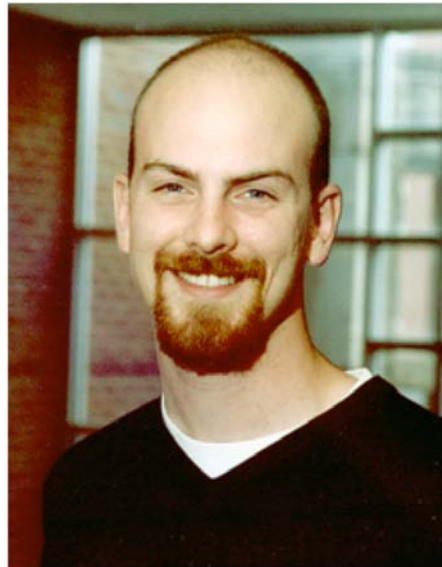


ERIC C. FREUNDT

Oxford Scholar 2003

Degree: Middle Tennessee State University: B.S., Biology, 2003

Research Area: Virology



Eric graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Honors College Middle Tennessee State University with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry. He has received numerous awards and honors for his outstanding academic achievements including the Presidential Scholarship, Quill E. Cope Scholarship, Maria de los Reyes Scholarship, the Elliot Dawson/Bioventures Biotechnology Scholarship, and has been inducted into many honors societies including Phi Eta Sigma from which he received the Most Distinguished Senior Award, and Golden Key International. He also received the Peter I. Karl Outstanding Senior Award from the biology department as well as the President's Award and a Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship. While an undergraduate, Eric worked extensively in independent research on several noteworthy projects such as characterizing the effectiveness of light-dependent DNA repair mechanisms and detection of new Legionella-like Amoebal pathogens through sequencing of the 16S ribosomal gene. His honors thesis involved the discovery of a novel tick-borne enterovirus in patient cerebral spine fluid. For these accomplishments his work has been submitted to various journals for publication. Eric also enjoyed being active in student ministry at Middle Tennessee State, and served leadership roles in the Tri- Beta Biological Honor Society, and in the Scientia Online Journal. As an Oxford Scholar, Eric has identified a key cytopathic gene in the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus under the mentorship of Michael Lenardo and Xiaoning Xu. His goal is to pursue a career in research of host-pathogen relationships in emerging infections. Eric says, "I'd like to make basic discoveries in the lab that will truly help people suffering with infectious diseases."